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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## IDF shelling kills 100 Lebanese civilians

### Shahak blames Hizbullah for deaths

DAVID RUDGE and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN



Fijian UNIFIL soldiers stand over the covered bodies of victims of yesterday's IDF bombardment.

#### Clinton calls for immediate cease-fire; Christopher to arrive Sunday

DAVID MAKOVSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER

US President Bill Clinton last night called upon all sides to agree to an immediate cease-fire following yesterday's IDF shelling, which killed scores of Lebanese civilians seeking refuge at a UNIFIL compound near Tyre.

The inner cabinet, which held an emergency session, authorized Prime Minister Shimon Peres to conduct negotiations with the US to end the crisis.

After the session, Peres said he was "pained" by the loss of civilian lives yesterday, but sounded undeterred in wanting to continue the campaign and blamed Hizbullah for using civilians as "shields."

Clinton is dispatching Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East "to work out a set of understandings that would lead to an enduring end to this crisis," the president told reporters upon arriving in St. Petersburg, Russia, from Japan. Christopher is tentatively scheduled to arrive on Sunday.

"To achieve that goal, I call upon all parties to agree to an immediate cease-fire," he said. "An end to the fighting is essential to allow our diplomatic efforts to move forward."

US special peace coordinator and Christopher aide Dennis Ross was due to leave last night for the region, the State Department announced. He is scheduled to meet with Peres today and travel to Damascus tomorrow.

It remained unclear whether the UN Security Council would condemn Israel in an urgent session last night, and, if so, how the US would vote.

In remarks to reporters at the Defense Ministry after the inner cabinet meeting, Peres declared, "Hizbullah will bring a disaster upon Lebanon." He said the IDF "wasn't aware that there were civilians there" and added it was the responsibility of Lebanon and Syria to prevent Hizbullah from using civilians as a shield.

"I am pained by every person, every woman, every child, who is killed. But Israel was left with no choice but to defend its citizens," Peres said.

The prime minister cited a UN spokesman who said Hizbullah fired Katyushas and mortars about 350 meters from the UN position about 15 minutes before the IDF shelling. Defense Ministry officials last night expressed appreciation for UNIFIL's efficient reporting under extremely difficult circumstances.

At the inner cabinet meeting, sources say everyone but Environment Minister Yossi Sarid backed Peres's opinion that the campaign should not be stopped despite the killings. (Continued on Page 2)

### 5 shells bring operation crashing down

MORE than 12,000 artillery shells were fired with surgical precision into Lebanon in the eight days of Operation Grapes of Wrath. The IDF had boasted of accurate hits and showed off its sophisticated weaponry, which was supposed to avoid civilian casualties.

But it took just five deadly rounds from a 155mm howitzer to bring the meticulously planned operation crashing down. The shelling of innocent refugees will go down in history as the turning point in Israel's latest foray into Lebanon.

The government will most likely call off the

ANALYSIS ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

bombardment, before any sort of truce is reached, and opt for negotiating a diplomatic arrangement as soon as possible. But the result will be less favorable than one reached before the world witnessed the deaths of possibly 100 civilians.

"It is a public relations disaster and it will be the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath," said Reuven Pedatzur, director of the Galilee

Center for Strategic and National Security. "The option is to stop firing and to start talking. Certainly, any inevitable agreement will be far worse than it would have been."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres is under international pressure to stop the assault against Hizbullah. But with elections less than six weeks away, he faces an equally agitated domestic front which wants Israel to come out of the operation with an agreement better than the unwritten understandings of 1993's Operation Accountability. (Continued on Page 2)

### Arafat reaffirms commitment to change covenant

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Authority President Yasser Arafat yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to change the Palestinian National Covenant. He also said the Palestine National Council will meet from next Monday to Wednesday "to fulfill what has been agreed by our side concerning the covenant."

But, he added at a press conference after meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, "I cannot guarantee the change in the covenant, and you have to respect our democracy."

Peres and Arafat met for the first time since the suicide bombings seven weeks ago chilled relations. They discussed issues such as Hamas, the covenant, and Hebron, which must be resolved before final status talks start. Peres said they will open with a ceremonial meeting on May 5.

The significance of the meeting at the Erez checkpoint, initiated by Peres, was increased by its occurring on one of the bloodiest days of Operation Grapes of Wrath, which Arafat has condemned. He said Arafat should return to the 1993 cease-fire line.

"A month of dialogue is better than an hour of war," he said.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to the PA's efforts to root out Hamas violence, the precondition for an Israeli withdrawal from most of Hebron.

Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan and General Security chief Amin Hivdi, who are in charge of weeding out Islamic gunmen, provided details. They asserted, in agreement with Peres, that Iran is materially backing Hamas and Islamic Jihad against the PA and the peace process. "I have the impression that the the Palestinian Authority is doing a serious job against Hamas," Peres said, acknowledging that the PA had prevented some infiltrations.

Arafat was accompanied by Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) who is to head the Palestinian side in the final status talks. The two sides agreed to have separate discussions on withdrawal from Hebron and easing the closure. Arafat, who was expected to criticize the closure sharply, called for it to be lifted, but acknowledged "slow steps" had been taken by Israel to ease it. He asked Israel to help find jobs for up to 120,000 unemployed workers. Leila Khaled arrives in Jericho, Page 22.

### Terrorists kill 17 Greek tourists in Cairo

CAIRO (Reuters) - Terrorists thought to be Moslem militants massacred 17 Greek tourists and an Egyptian man outside a Cairo hotel yesterday. Fifteen people, mostly Greek tourists, were wounded, hospital sources said.

Four gunmen with Kalashnikov assault rifles got out of a vehicle near the Europa Hotel on the road to the pyramids, and opened fire on Greek tourists waiting to board a bus for Alexandria at 7 a.m., security sources said.

An Interior Ministry statement said the men came in a white microbus. It said 14 women and four men, including an Egyptian parking attendant, were killed.

Police blamed Islamic radicals for the brutal attack on the mostly elderly Greeks. They were investigating whether the victims were targeted simply as tourists or were mistaken for Israelis who were also staying at the hotel. Full report, Page 6.

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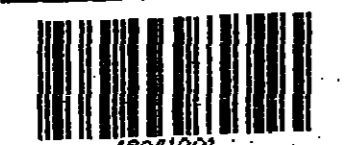
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UN deplores shelling, terrorists' use of civilians

THE UN Security Council was expected to pass a US-backed resolution last night calling for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon and deploring yesterday's IDF shelling of Katynah launchers near a UNIFIL position in southern Lebanon...

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

were in the headquarters of the Fijian battalion when the position was hit, the spokesman said. "This is a typical guerrilla tactic, to hide behind a civilian position," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, Israel is disturbed by a draft UN resolution aimed at stopping the hostilities in Lebanon and disappointed that Egypt has taken a leading role in promoting it.

World slams attack on UN position

WORLD reaction to yesterday's tragedy in Lebanon looked harshly on Israel's actions. King Hussein condemned Israel's attacks on Lebanon as "criminal" and demanded an immediate halt to the bombardments.

regretted the shelling of the UNIFIL base and called for intensive diplomatic efforts to halt hostilities in the region.

military solution to the current crisis, French authorities are determined to pursue their peace efforts. They demand an immediate cease-fire while awaiting an accord resulting from the initiatives being developed.

Hamas promises 'sea of blood' HAMAS yesterday vowed to drown Israel "in a sea of blood" if the IDF continues its onslaught against Hizbullah.

CLINTON ington, told Israeli reporters that Jerusalem is prepared to cease its bombing campaign "without any conditions" providing that Katynah stop falling on the Galilee.

Opposition continues to support operation in Lebanon

FOLLOWING the accidental attack on a UNIFIL base, in which dozens of Lebanese civilians were killed yesterday, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu reaffirmed the opposition's support for Operation Grapes of Wrath.

behind the backs of civilians to perpetrate its crimes. He argued that "the IDF is a moral army whose credo is the purity of arms, and there is no doubt that no one in the IDF intended to harm innocent civilians."

SARAH HONIG and agencies He cautioned that "despite all the sadness we feel, Peres must see to it that this operation does not end where it started - with a situation of terror and a lack of minimal security for the North."

ive. It is true that Hizbullah deliberately attacks our civilians, but the State of Israel is not able to permit itself to unintentionally attack civilians."

said that though the responsibility for the disaster falls upon Hizbullah, that doesn't provide comfort.

CLINTON, told Israeli reporters that Jerusalem is prepared to cease its bombing campaign "without any conditions" providing that Katynah stop falling on the Galilee.

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Winning numbers and cards In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 211974 won NIS 1,000,000.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Salutes its professors who are receiving the Israel Prize, Israel's highest honor for academic achievement, artistic accomplishment, and contribution to society, on Israel Independence Day.

THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION FESTIVE OPENING OF INDEPENDENCE PARK The festive opening of the Wilf Independence Park will take place on Sunday, 21 April 1996, at 16:00.









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# NEWS IN FOCUS

The Jerusalem Post Friday, April 19, 1996 7

## Riding out the storm

**In the face of adversity, some gritty northerners are staying put, Abraham Rabinovich reports**

**I**n a landscape speckled with more cows than humans this week, the northern Galilee was an easy match for Switzerland in its stunning beauty — a picture postcard of tranquility, smudged only by an occasional mushrooming of dirty gray smoke followed by an unforgiving whump.

Despite the continuing explosion of Katyushas, angst had departed the shelters of Kiryat Shmona along with most of the town's residents, leaving behind for the most part a calm readiness to ride out the storm as long as it takes.

"I don't mind sitting down here a month or whatever as long as this operation ends the Katyushas," said Ya'acov Azarza, a 45-year-old truck driver in a public shelter. "We just don't want to have to do this every few weeks."

It was 11 p.m. and a dozen people, mostly children, were lying in triple-tiered bunks on the darkened periphery of the shelter whose homey atmosphere contrasted sharply with that of many other shelters in town. A few teenaged girls and mothers were conversing in the stairwell outside, so as not to disturb the sleepers. There were party-like decorations and posters on the wall which the children had put up during the week with girl soldiers who make the rounds of the shelters every day. In one corner, in a pool of light, four men, including Azarza, sat at a bridge table watching television and eating pistachio nuts out of a bowl in the center. They looked like they might have been sitting in a village cafe.

"We're all neighbors and we go to the same synagogue," said Ya'acov Malka. "Down here we're like one family. Better than family."

The men had all immigrated from Morocco more than 40 years ago, part of the mass of immigrants with which the government had filled in the map of the country with new towns and border settlements.

The decision of Azarza and the others to remain in Kiryat Shmona when three quar-



Although most children have been evacuated from their northern homes, some have remained, spending most of their time in bomb shelters. (Israel Sun/A. Shapiro)

ters of the population had chosen to be evacuated reflected not passiveness but rootedness. This is our home, they said. It was clear it was the IDF's vigorous actions in Lebanon that fed their morale. A punch on the nose is much more endurable if the other guy is getting even worse lumps.

Earlier in the evening, in another part of the ghost-like town, a visitor searching futilely for an inhabited shelter spotted Shlomo. In another context, Shlomo was not a type you would choose to meet on a darkened street.

He said he knew of a shelter with children that could be visited, but first he wanted to show a building down the street which had been holed that day by a Katyusha. Asked what he did for a living he dodged the question a couple of times

and then said, somewhat delicately, "I'm an ex." His T-shirt bore a motto proclaiming him to be a battler against drugs. From a police jeep loudspeaker came a warning to residents to get back into shelters. As the jeep drove by, Shlomo waved to the men inside who appeared to know him.

His mother and brothers had evacuated to Katzrin on the Golan Heights and he had gone there too for a day but decided to return. "There's something special about this place," he said. "I prefer being here."

As he talked it became evident that he enjoyed the social acceptance and camaraderie that came with being part of a group under fire.

The small shelter he led the way to was occupied by one family, the Timots, who had managed to give it a cheery look with

decorations and a small cooking corner. There were three daughters aged three to 14. Except for one day they had gone off to family in Hazor, the children had been in the shelter continuously for five days.

Once a day, their parents took them one at a time for a quick shower at home and then back again. Otherwise they were not permitted to venture outside the shelter exit. "We could have sent them away but I just can't bear to be without them," said Dalia Timot. She too expressed readiness to stay as long as necessary if Operation Grapes of Wrath would bring an end to the Katyushas. The children said they were bored but seemed content enough. There was television and games and the daily visits by the girl soldiers. And they were with their parents.

At Kiryat Shmona's Stress Prevention Center, which has long experience in dealing with Katyusha-invoked syndromes, psychologist Yehuda Shacham endorsed the Timots' decision to stay together.

"During Operation Accountability in 1993, the official recommendation was to evacuate the children," he said. "As a result of our studies we subsequently recommended that if there is to be evacuation it is best that the whole family be evacuated." This, he said, was in keeping with findings by Anna Freud and others that children who remained with their families in London during the Blitz had fewer psychological scars afterwards than children who had been evacuated to the country.

ALTHOUGH PUBLIC attention has been

focused almost exclusively on Kiryat Shmona since the operation began, dozens of other communities along the border have had Katyushas exploding on their doorsteps in the past week. At kibbutzim, long-standing emergency plans were smoothly implemented.

"Last Friday at 6 p.m.," says Kibbutz Sasa Secretary Rachel Weisel, "I announced that the social club would be closed because of the emergency and I recommended that people coming to the dining room for the Shabbat meal eat quickly and not hang around. We didn't want a lot of people concentrated in one place. I had just finished the broadcast and gone home when a Katyusha hit near some of the apartments, breaking windows."

The kibbutz children were sent off for two days to "air out" but had now returned and would resume studies at kibbutzim out of Katyusha range to which they would be bused with their teachers every day.

At Moshav Amirim, whose homes lie 200 meters from the border, five rockets had exploded nearby since the operation began but these seemed to be secondary nuisances in a general atmosphere of malaise. Settled by immigrants from Morocco's Atlas Mountains in the 1950s, the remote farming community has never found its economic feet. It has also never recovered emotionally from the ambush of its school bus in 1972 by infiltrators who killed eight children and four adults aboard. Although located on a beautiful site, there was a general atmosphere of neglect and despondency about the place.

"Security isn't our problem," said Anaram Biton. "Making a living is our problem."

His neighbor and cousin, Ita Biton, whose husband was killed and son wounded in the bus ambush, appeared still to be haunted by that trauma after a quarter century. When she objected to the idea of the moshav children being evacuated it was on the grounds that the roads weren't safe. "What if a Katyusha hits the bus?" she asked.

Sitting on a stone wall between their houses, they took solace in what they could — egg prices this year were good, there was no drug problem in the village, and as for their health, it could be worse.

The concentration of social resources and public attention on Kiryat Shmona in times of emergency highlights the neglected nature of communities like Amirim which were placed like sentinels along the border and then largely forgotten. After the Katyushas stop falling these communities will still need to be shown the light at the end of the tunnel.

## Hizbullah remains resilient while Israel contemplates next move

**E**ight days and more than 1,000 air sorties later, the prime question is how badly has Israel hurt Hizbullah? IDF intelligence sources don't have to think long about that one. They say the Shi'ite organization has hardly been scratched.

"Hizbullah is not panicking," a military source says. "They may have lost a post here and there, but they have simply moved to other places."

Military sources say that no more than 20 Hizbullah members have been killed during the Israeli bombing raids. Hizbullah acknowledges only one fatality.

Somehow, the sources say, the IDF attacked Hizbullah headquarters and outposts while they were empty. So, in the first raid of Hizbullah headquarters in south Beirut last week, the Israeli Air Force reported accurate hits of the offices, but nobody was inside. The same was true in Israeli

attacks of other Hizbullah commands, which have included communications centers, broadcasting stations, and offices. The raids, the sources say, have not hurt Hizbullah's chain of command or its ability to fire as many as 70 Katyushas a day toward Israel.

"Hizbullah is satisfied by the fact that it can launch Katyushas," a military source who did not want to be further identified, says. "It hasn't been defeated yet. They don't feel they're under pressure."

Senior military officers say hurting Hizbullah has not been the goal of Operation Grapes of Wrath. Rather, the aim has been to create havoc in Lebanon to force Syria to restrain Hizbullah from firing rockets toward Israel.

"If we could put an end to the Katyushas with military means, we would happily do so," a military source says. "So far, we have

### Despite continuous IDF pounding of the terrorist organization, army sources tell Steve Rodan that the group has hardly been scratched

been unable to do it. We have placed very strict limits on the use of fire."

**BUT QUIETLY**, some IDF sources acknowledge a second reason: Israel doesn't want to provoke a terrorist offensive by Hizbullah.

"We're walking a very narrow line here," says Martin Kramer, director of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies and a leading expert on Hizbullah. "Israel is conducting an operation in such a way that Hizbullah leaders are not targeted and that there are not many Hizbullah casualties."

Over the years, Israel has

learned that Hizbullah vengeance exacts a high price. In 1992, Israel assassinated a leading Hizbullah official, Abbas Musawi; months later, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed, an operation attributed to Hizbullah.

Two years later, an Israeli raid of a Hizbullah training camp resulted in the deaths of close to 50 Shi'ite trainees. Soon after, another bomb leveled the office tower that held the Jewish community offices in Buenos Aires. More than 100 people were killed.

Today, Hizbullah is once again raising the possibility of renewed terrorist attacks against Israeli

and Jewish installations abroad. "We have to say that the Hizbullah threat has to be taken seriously," a senior intelligence officer says. "We have seen that they carry out their threats."

Hizbullah, with an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 fighters, has often allowed other groups to take credit for attacks on Israel. Intelligence sources say the group has plenty of terrorist allies, including Hamas, Palestinian rejectionist groups, and the PKK, the Kurdish anti-Turkish guerrillas.

**IN ALL** of these relationships, Hizbullah is the senior partner, often supplying arms and

Katyushas to ensure that Israel sustains attacks on its northern communities while the Shi'ite group can disclaim responsibility.

Some IDF sources are concerned that Hizbullah will now seek to encourage the PKK to coordinate attacks on Israeli installations. This, in reaction to what Turkish military sources say have been Israeli Air Force bombings of PKK bases in the Bekaa Valley. The raids on the PKK, whose bases are about a kilometer away from Hizbullah installations, were part of the new security cooperation agreement between Jerusalem and Ankara, Turkish sources say.

Already, the Israeli Embassy in Ankara is on high alert and special precautions have been introduced to protect the life of Ambassador Zvi al-Peleg.

IDF officers acknowledge that so far they remain short of their

goals in Operation Grapes of Wrath. Many residents have not left their homes in the dozens of villages north of the security zone. This has meant a delay in what is regarded as the next stage of the operation — a search and destroy mission for Hizbullah fighters. Without massive amounts of ground troops and the element of surprise, some military sources doubt whether such an operation would significantly hurt Hizbullah.

Moreover, Syria has not followed the assessment of Israeli intelligence sources that it would restrain Hizbullah in fear of a massive IDF attack. Instead, IDF sources now say that Damascus has become as stubborn as Hizbullah's patron Iran in insisting that the Shi'ite group refuse to bend to Israeli demands.

"In their [Syria] minds," a military source says, "everything is a zero-sum game."

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2. Yehuda Harel - Kibbutz Merom Golan, Golan Heights. One of the founding settlers on the Golan, member of the Golan Settlements Committee.
3. Emanuel Zissman MK - Jerusalem. Resigned from the Labor party in order to protect the Golan and Jerusalem.
4. Prof. Alex Lubotsky - Efrat, Gush Etzion. Head of the Mathematics Dept. - the Hebrew University.
5. Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Uzi Keren - Kibbutz Ein Gev. One of the leading figures in the struggle to prevent withdrawal from the Golan.
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# Oklahoma tragedy unites Jews, Christians

Carol Rushton reports on the important contribution the local Jewish community played in the rescue and rebuilding efforts

ON Wednesday, April 19, 1995, people in Oklahoma City woke up as usual. They got up, dressed, ate breakfast. Husbands kissed wives goodbye before leaving for the day; children left for school. Employees of the downtown Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building arrived for work. Parents dropped off their kids at the day-care center in the building before going on to their various jobs. Secretaries answered phones, managers held meetings.

At 9:02 a.m., an enormous car bomb shattered their reality, changing their lives forever.

Tragedies either split people apart or bring them together, making the ties between them stronger than ever. For the Jewish and Christian communities of Oklahoma City, the latter seems to be the case, according to David Packman, rabbi of the city's Reform Temple B'nai Israel.

"Relations between the two communities were never bad," Rabbi Packman said. "But the bombing has brought everyone a lot closer together."

"There is a tremendous sense of cooperation between the two groups that wasn't there before, which is a positive outcome of the tragedy. People also have much more civic pride in the city than they had previously."

Although no Jews were killed or injured in the bombing, the Jewish community in the city — which numbers about 2,500 — was at the forefront of the relief effort. Moshe Tal, 45, an Israeli who now runs a chemical business in Oklahoma City, and has lived in the US since 1971, was at the time chairman of the Bricktown Association, a non-profit federation of merchants from the downtown area.

He organized area businesses,

organized."

Not only was Tal at the forefront of the food drive, he also helped to coordinate the overall volunteer effort. "We took over the Myriad Convention Center, which is huge, and brought in military beds and showers so the rescue workers would have somewhere to sleep and freshen up."

"We even had a pharmacy and Jacuzzi," Edie Roodman from the Jewish Federation was in charge of dispatching the volunteers.

"Many of the volunteers would work 18-hour days," Tal said. "We would literally have to pull them away and make them rest. I didn't go home for two weeks."

A restaurant convention was taking place at the Myriad when the bombing occurred, and the vendors agreed to leave their equipment for the local restaurants to use.

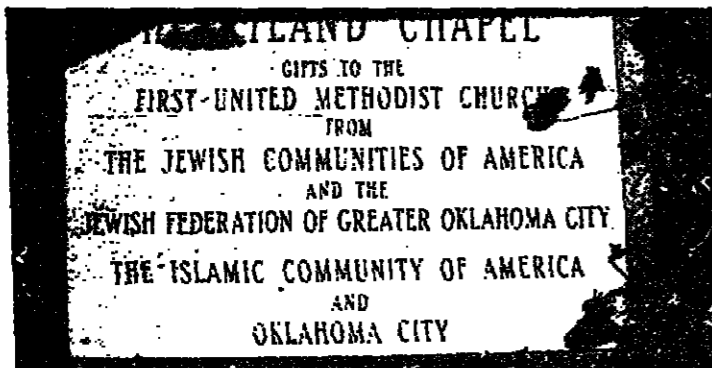
"We also worked closely with Larry Jones (an Oklahoma City Christian minister) and his Feed the Children organization," Moshe said. "The help we received from everyone was overwhelming. We learned that Oklahomans are very warm-hearted people. I felt like I was in Israel."

One of the hardest moments for Tal was when he went to the notification center with some cookies for those waiting for news about family members. "One little girl asked if she could have a chocolate chip cookie, and I of course said yes," Moshe said. "Then she said, 'Can I have another one for my daddy? It's his favorite cookie.'" His body was found two days later.

The local Jewish community was also the first to respond with financial help. Four downtown area churches were damaged in the blast, and because the US government does not provide financial aid to non-profit religious organiza-



Symbols of joint effort between Christians and Jews: (above) The Heartland Chapel memorial, half of which was financed by the local Jewish community, the support of which is represented on a plaque (below left).



restaurants, and, along with volunteers (some of whom came from the Jewish community), they provided food and meals for the police and firemen involved in the rescue effort.

"I was only two blocks away when the bomb went off," Tal recalls. "I went to the site to analyze the situation and immediately started calling area restaurants. Within two days, we were very

Chapel, built 50 meters from the bomb site as a memorial to the victims, was also heavily financed by local Jews who contributed \$10,000, which represented half of the construction costs. A plaque now commemorates the Jewish community's contribution.

As today's first anniversary date approached, Rabbi Packman described the atmosphere in Oklahoma City as "unsettled." He said there was "concern that some crazies might do something."

"April 19 is an especially significant date, not only because of the events in Waco, Texas, but also because it is the anniversary of the start of the [American Revolutionary War]. People are afraid that militia groups might use that date to stage an anniversary event of their own."

There are a number of events today but they are being played down by the local media because of the concern of further terrorist acts.

Rabbi Packman has been asked to read an appropriate passage from the Bible at a huge memorial service being held at the Myriad

Convention Center in the downtown area. Temple B'nai Israel will have their own special service which will include original songs and poetry.

"We will stress the Jewish connection to the bombing," Rabbi Packman said. "The militia groups in which Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were involved are very antisemitic, very racist."

"Even though the Oklahoma City bombing was not directed toward Jews, with very little effort these militias could redirect their focus."

"As a Jewish community, we have to be concerned about these groups who use conspiracy theories as a basis for their antisemitic beliefs. Whenever conspiracy theories abound, the Jew becomes the great conspirator."

Moshe Tal feels that people view the date with more sadness than fear. "People are more aware, more cautious about security. But the bombing united everyone. People have a positive attitude about the future. It has made them more determined to make the city a greater city."

# Previous rescue hero was haunted by fame

S LUMPED in front of the TV following last year's Oklahoma bombing, Robert O'Donnell watched the images flash by like his own life on rapid rewind.

Weary firefighters. Wounded babies. A harrowing race against the clock. The scene happened to be Oklahoma City, but it was all too familiar, a traumatic reminder of the starring role O'Donnell once played in another rescue that touched the American people's heart.

Seven years earlier, in what remains one of the top-rated news events in US television history, the slender paramedic wriggled down an underground shaft, freeing tiny Jessica McClure, who had been trapped for 58 fretful hours in a Texas well. Overnight, he went from small-town fireman to American hero. The White House saluted him. Hollywood besieged him.

"I've saved other people's lives before," he said. "But there'll never be nothing like this again."

For O'Donnell, there wasn't. When the media's restless eye moved on, his life appeared to freeze in time, family members and friends say, his identity forever cemented by the 15 minutes of fame that branded him as Baby Jessica's rescuer.

Long before the footage of Oklahoma City brought it all back, O'Donnell had come to see the limelight as a curse, not a blessing — a blinding glare that had undermined his marriage, crippled him with migraines and hastened his departure from the fire department amid allegations of prescription-drug abuse.

"When those rescuers are through, they're going to need lots of help," he told his mother as they watched search crews hunt for survivors in Oklahoma. "I don't mean for a couple of days or weeks, but for years."

On April 23, four days after the bombing, O'Donnell drove across the darkened prairie of his family's ranch and stuck a shotgun to his



This photo of O'Donnell and Baby Jessica appeared on the cover of 'Life' magazine five months after the incident.

head. He was 37 and the father of two boys, aged 10 and 14.

"I'm sorry to check out this way," he scrawled on a scrap of paper found in his pickup truck. "But life sucks."

THE DOWNWARD spiral that O'Donnell traveled is a cautionary tale, an anatomy of the pressures faced by all emergency workers, especially when their efforts capture the fancy of a market hungry for real-life heroes.

What seems clear, according to those close to O'Donnell, is that he suffered from some form of post-traumatic stress disorder, usually associated with combat veterans but increasingly common in times of disaster.

For a few extraordinary days in October 1987, the world's attention was riveted on the drama of an 18-month-old girl trapped more than six meters below ground in an old dank well.

She cried for her mother, then tried to calm herself by singing about

Winnie the Pooh. While crews frantically drilled a parallel shaft, CNN scored one of its highest ratings for a single 15-minute period.

The real story, however, would unfold underground, out of the spotlight, after two days of chipping through rock. O'Donnell, picked for his slim build and lanky arms, descended into the hole and squirmed — head first and on his back — through a narrow tunnel connecting him with the well. He looked up and saw Jessica's leg.

Using K-Y jelly and the rubber-tipped leg of a photographer's tripod, O'Donnell gently prodded and pulled, tugging Jessica by her blue baby pants. It took him more than an hour, inching her down the lubricated hole, like an obstetrician delivering a child. Finally she was out, and in the hands of another paramedic, who carried Jessica up to a chorus of cheers.

For a while, O'Donnell stayed underground, too overcome to face the crowd.

Later, the phone began to ring, even before he had made it home to kiss his wife or hug his kids. Reporters lined up outside his door. Cameras were thrust in his face. They all wanted him to retell the rescue, to relive every last feeling and thought.

At every opportunity, O'Donnell insisted that he had played just a small role in what was unmistakably a team effort. But more than any other rescuer, he also was willing to accommodate the media's quest to personalize the story.

He did Oprah Winfrey's show, then went to Washington DC, where he shook hands with George Bush, then the vice president. He was winned and dined by Hollywood power-brokers. His mother-in-law made him a scrapbook, embroidering on the cover: "Our Hero."

"We were all on that merry-go-round for a while," said a local police officer, who underwent counseling to deal with the pressures of both the rescue and media blitz. "But when we tried to get on with our lives, it was like Robert got stuck on auto-pilot."

He confided to friends that he had hopes of breaking into the entertainment industry — talk shows, acting, public relations — anything that would keep his star aloft.

His headaches were the breaking point. Even as a boy, as young as eight or nine, he was afflicted by throbbing migraines. They came and went, maybe once a month.

Once the media's interest in the rescue began to wane, his headaches returned with a vengeance, knocking him on his back up to four times a week. He went to dozens of specialists, even volunteered for experimental remedies, but found no relief.

In the end, he became a walking medicine chest. He began toting a black bag full of painkillers — some of which, his then-wife Robbie said, "could sedate a horse."

Not long after his divorce in 1991, O'Donnell overloaded on sedatives and passed out at the fire station. The department's top brass checked him into a drug rehabilitation center, where he stayed for 30 days. A few months later, after O'Donnell had returned to work, a commander detected a slur in his speech and ordered another drug test.

O'Donnell refused, quitting rather than submit to what he saw as a scheme to have him ousted. His 11-year career over, he tried to find a job with another department, but was convinced he had been blacklisted. Some days, he would pick up his scrapbook — the one with "Our Hero" embroidered on the cover — and fling it, cursing it like a spurned lover.

What started as such a simple story — an innocent victim, a clear problem, a single solution — had become a tortured mess in O'Donnell's mind. Suicide was his final, imponderable response.

His elder son Casey helped carry the coffin to the grave, to the mournful sounds of "Amazing Grace." His other son, Chance, whose birthday was a few days later, wondered why his dad couldn't have waited at least until he turned 11.

(Los Angeles Times-Washington Post)

# Search for hero meets sad end

ROSS Harris knows all about the need to make contact, to reconnect with the emotions of Oklahoma's defining moment. A controller for an oil-drilling company, he spent five months trying to locate the anonymous physician with whom he teamed up in the chaotic minutes after last year's blast.

Among the first unofficial rescuers on the scene, together they managed to improvise with a crowbar and borrowed bandages, digging out one man from a pile of debris and stanching the blood that gushed from the shredded face of another.

But before Harris could learn the doctor's name, he was gone, off to extricate some of the tiniest bodies from the rubble.

"I saw a man at probably one of the finest moments of his life," the 46-year-old executive recalled.

"I wanted to be able to shake his hand and say: 'Thank you, sir... I was there. I witnessed it. I know the difference that you made.'"

Week after week, Harris scanned the crowds at the prayer services and memorial ceremonies, sure that he would be able to spot his elusive partner. He roamed the corridors of a local hospital, asking nurses if they might recognize his description. As time went on, he thought of placing a classified ad.

Finally, last September, Harris picked up the *Daily Oklahoman* and felt his spirits soar. "That's him, that's him!" he shouted, pointing to the small black-and-white photo of Dr. H. Don Chumley, owner of an osteopathic clinic a short walk from the federal building. Then he read the headline. Chumley, a 47-year-old amateur pilot, died on September 24 when his single-engine Cessna slammed into a Texas cornfield. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

"It put me in an emotional tizzy," Harris said. "The same sort of emotion I felt when we got down there that first day."

(Los Angeles Times)

Ministry of Tourism Jerusalem

## INDEPENDENCE DAY PERFORMANCES AT THE JERUSALEM THEATER

Tuesday, April 23, 1996  
20 Marcus St., Jerusalem

Jerusalem Municipality

### Sing along with Yoni Rechter

Instrumentalists: Yoni Rechter, Eli Mohar, Avital Pasternak  
Yoni Rechter's best known and loved songs  
Sherover Hall at 10:00 p.m.

### Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra FBA

Conductor: Yutaka Sado, Laureate of the Leonard Bernstein conducting competition 1995.  
Soloists: Laura Aikin (Soprano) - Berlin State Opera  
Davidá Demiani, Baritone, Vienna Royal Opera

Program:  
Orgad - Two Overtures for Brass, Famous Operatic Arias and Duets  
Beethoven - Symphony No. 9  
Henry Crown Hall at 9:30 a.m.

### Special Folklore Performance for Tourists

The Jerusalem Hora Song and Dance Troupe, favorite Israeli songs.  
Rebecca Crown Hall at 10:30 p.m.

### Dance Party from 11:30 p.m. (following the performances)

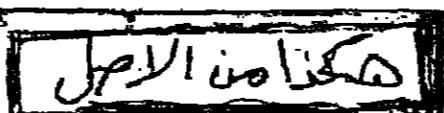
in the foyer of the Jerusalem Theater  
Hashagririm Band will play dance music till dawn.

## Jerusalem Independence Day Party

Tickets prices: US \$28 / NIS 90 group purchases (minimum of 15): US \$22 / NIS 70

Free admission to the dance party with ticket to one of the performances.

Tickets: Bimot, 8 Shamai St. Tel. (02) 240896  
Kla'im, 12 Shamai St. Tel. (02) 256869  
Jerusalem Theater box Office, 20 Marcus St. Tel. (02) 610011











1996

wish report on world

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, April 19, 1996

Just do it

ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

AFTER having failed to cut our exorbitant tax rates, and after having stood up to none of its large-scale privatization promises...

their stakes in such companies as fuel distributor Delek, cement monopoly Neshet (both Hapoalim), or realtor Africa Israel (Leumi), our economy seems downright incestuous.

4 major Scitex owners up stake in firm

Two minor shareholders file class action suit

THE four largest shareholders of Scitex have invested \$20.8 million over the last 10 days in the purchase of more than one million Scitex shares...

On April 9 and 10, the shareholders purchased 225,000 Scitex ordinary shares for \$4.3m., equivalent to \$19.11 per share.

On the legal aspects of his takeover scheme. Two of Scitex's minor shareholders reportedly filed a class action suit at a New York court...

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for currency, deposit rates (3, 6, 12 months), and exchange rates (Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates).

Geotek to set up telecom firm

GEOTEK Communications plans to create a telecommunications company out of its FHMA (frequency hopping multiple access) division.

Softmatika Company Ltd. Personal Hygiene Products requires PARTNER / INVESTOR. Serious, with experience in marketing / export.

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Investing in Israeli Real Estate Made Simple

Israeli real estate has served collateral other than the as a prudent investment for property itself. Thousands of non-residents MFRM's are available for who now own second periods of up to 15 years...

Report: Kibbutz debt interest calculation of no significance

THERE is no economic significance to claims regarding the banks' calculation of charges to the kibbutzim in light of the widespread write-offs and debt rescheduling, Dr. Daniel Sidon concludes in an opinion commissioned by Bank Hapoalim in reaction to the Procaccia Report.

The new company, which will have its headquarters in Montvale, New Jersey, will integrate Geotek's research and development, production and manufacturing, and mobile data subsidiaries.

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Formula posts profits of NIS 8.7m.

FORMULA Systems has announced 1995 net profits of NIS 8.7 million, up from NIS 118,000 in 1994. Annual revenues were NIS 198.47m., up from NIS 84.95m. Earnings per share were NIS 1.46, up from NIS 0.02 the previous year.

Orgler named new TASE chairman

Prof. Yair Orgler, chairman of the Ma'lot stock rating company, has been named the new chairman of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

TAX COURSE. A course will be held shortly to prepare English-speaking Certified Public Accountants for the Israel C.P.A. Part B Tax Examination.

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM? ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK.

CommStock Trading Ltd. MEMO. April 19, 1996. To: All CommStock Personnel. From: David Zwebner, President. I am pleased to welcome Dan Gabriel to our company. Dan, who is a U.S.-licensed futures broker, acquired extensive experience in the field at the American Futures Group in New York.

Drive Carefully! Arrive safely!

Stocks rise for 3rd straight day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



ISRAELI stocks jumped for a third day yesterday as investors expected the weaker shekel to lift export companies' profits...

Markets up on German rate cut

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading shares closed higher, bolstered by news of a surprise half point cut in German interest rates...

Dow rises slightly

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed slightly higher yesterday after shaking off the weakness in oil company shares...

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table showing currency cross-rates for MARK, STERLING, JYEN, SFY, and FFY.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Main table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, % Change, Volume, and Price % Volume.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo with text 'THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO'.

Table of Key Representative Rates for US dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

INFL-STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ 30, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes like FTSE 100 and Nikkei 225.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks traded in New York, listing names and prices.

INFL-MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates for various currencies.

Libor rates

Table of Libor rates for different maturities.

Advertisement for CommStock Trading Ltd. featuring a 'C' logo and contact information.

INFL-COMMODITIES

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices for various metals and minerals.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices for metals and minerals.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices from various countries.

Small handwritten note or scribble at the bottom right.













# PA policeman fires in air to disperse anti-Khaled demo

A PALESTINIAN policeman fired into the air yesterday to disperse a group of National Religious Party activists demonstrating on the outskirts of Jericho against the return of Palestinian hijacker Leila Khaled.

Avi Lerner, one of about 20 demonstrators, said the group was standing just beyond an IDF outpost near the Allenby Bridge terminal, in an area under Palestinian Authority jurisdiction, and protesting against Khaled and against the government for letting her return.

"A Palestinian policeman came, yelled something that we did not understand, and then fired into the air," Lerner said, adding that the group quickly scurried to the other side of the roadblock, where IDF soldiers stood with their weapons ready.

One eyewitness said the guard, whom he described as "infuriated," shouted for everyone to go home, and then suddenly fired in the air.

Khaled, who hijacked two passenger planes in 1969 and 1970, later crossed the bridge, kissed the ground, and declared, unre-

HERB KEINON and news agencies



Hijacker Leila Khaled waves to admirers as she arrives in Jericho yesterday for next week's Palestinian National Congress meeting. (Brian Hendler)

pentant. "I'm not a terrorist; I'm a freedom fighter," she said.

She was greeted by dozens of cheering supporters in Jericho.

Entry permits were also approved for other Palestine National Council members, including Khaled's boss, George

Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - who has announced he will not be coming - and Mohammed (Abul) Abbas, mastermind of the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking, whose men killed American passenger Leon Klinghoffer.

Palestinian Authority President Arafat has promised Prime Minister Shimon Peres that the PNC would amend the Palestinian Covenant by May 7.

Khaled said she would vote against changing the covenant because Palestinians didn't have a state yet.

"I will vote against the changing of the covenant because my people still need to get their rights," she told The Associated Press.

In all, Israel has approved the return of 445 exiled Palestinians so they can participate in the PNC meeting, said Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for Maj.-Gen. Oren Shihor, government coordinator in the territories.

Dror said Abul Abbas would not be Israel's responsibility. "Arafat will have to explain to the Americans or the Italians why he is not handing him over."

Peres's spokeswoman Aliza Goren said the US is aware of Israel's commitment to let all PNC members return. "Our actions to secure the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant are coordinated with the US," she said.

# Hijacking victim remembers the fear

MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

ONE Jerusalemite who unwillingly got to know Leila Khaled when she tried to hijack his plane 26 years ago was not surprised by the government's decision to allow her to attend the Palestinian National Council meeting in Gaza next week.

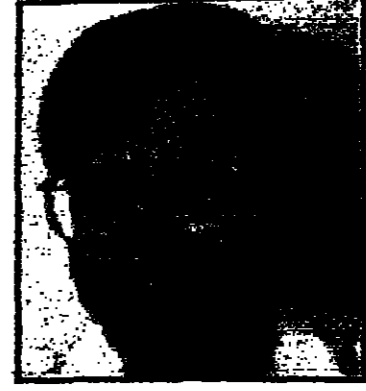
"It appears to be perfectly consistent with the government's policy to allow terrorists to roam free," said Dr. Joel Fredman, 38, in a telephone interview from his dental clinic.

Fredman recalled his plane trip back to the US with his parents, brother, and sister after celebrating his bar mitzvah at the Wall.

"We boarded an El Al plane to New York," he said. "Suddenly the plane nose-dived over the ocean and people started to scream. Loud clapping noises [gunshots] were heard and minutes later the plane leveled off."

The plane was forced to make an emergency landing at Heathrow Airport in London, but "not before the pilot dumped excess fuel into the sea," Fredman said.

He remembered the incredible fear he felt and how, after landing, the plane was immediately surrounded by ambulances, police cars, television crews, and



Dr. Joel Fredman. (Isaac Harel)

reporters. "We were led into the airport and it was only then we fully understood that there had been an attempted hijacking," he said.

Fredman, who sat with his family toward the back of the plane, said that the terrorists had tried to reach the cockpit. Khaled's accomplice was shot dead by a security guard and, according to Fredman, Khaled was pounced upon by passengers and pinned to the floor until the plane landed.

Khaled was initially taken to Ealing Police station and then released in a deal made between Arab terrorists and the British government.

**WEATHER**

Jerusalem 7-17  
Beer Sheva 8-22  
Haifa 10-21  
Tel Aviv 11-21  
Golan 8-16  
Dimona 10-24  
Samar 9-23  
Dead Sea 14-27  
East 16-23

Forecast: Partly cloudy.  
Shabbat: Partly cloudy. Rise in temperatures.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

City	Temp	Wind	Humidity
Jerusalem	17	10	65
Haifa	21	15	70
Tel Aviv	21	15	70
Beer Sheva	22	15	70
Dimona	24	15	70
Samar	23	15	70
Dead Sea	27	15	70
East	23	15	70

# Netanyahu receives death threats by phone

SARAH HONIG

LIKUD chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's has received dozens of death threats in recent weeks, leading the General Security Service and police to increase their protection of him.

During the recent Mimouna celebrations, GSS agents had to convince Netanyahu to wear a bulletproof vest.

The threats first came in on the Telemesser call-in phone numbers the Likud had made public. Among the messages recorded were a number which said "Bibi, we will kill you," "Bibi, you will never live to become prime minister," and "Netanyahu will die."

What gave rise to the GSS concern, however, was that the phoned-in threats were later backed up with similar written threats.

Netanyahu told Likud activists yesterday "not to yield to provocation and not to allow yourselves to be goaded into any conflict or any violence. All Likud activists must behave only according to the campaign team's instructions and must take no initiatives." He was speaking at a

meeting of the Likud campaign steering committee.

The head of the campaign organization committee, Reuven Rivlin, charged at the meeting that "Labor is again resorting to libel in an attempt to besmirch an entire camp and associate us all with [Yitzhak] Rabin's assassination."

Rivlin vehemently denied the claims of Yoav Doga, an aide to Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, that he had been set upon by Likud activists early Wednesday morning.

MK Ariel Sharon did not show up for the meeting, saying he had previous commitments. Some ascribed his absence to tension between him and Netanyahu, who, according to Likud sources, did not like Sharon's remarks about the need to expand the security zone in Lebanon to the Litani River. However, both Netanyahu and Sharon denied these reports.

MK Ovadia Eli, the Likud's

liaison to the religious sector, denied that the Likud is campaigning in the haredi community to win Knesset votes.

"We are campaigning in that sector only on Netanyahu's behalf and only in the prime ministerial contest," he said.

Eli was reacting to threats by the United Torah Judaism MK Avraham Ravitz that "should the Likud go after haredi votes in the Knesset race, we will instruct our people not to vote for Netanyahu for prime minister."

Likud campaign chief Yitzhak Mordechai reported that the party will officially kick off its campaign at the Jerusalem International Convention Center on April 24 and that it will close it in Jerusalem's Sacher Park on May 27. "To underscore our commitment to Jerusalem and the priority we give to keeping it fully united under unequivocal Israeli sovereignty,"

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Applications can be made at the Office of the Dean of Students, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, on Sunday and Wednesday, from 11 a.m., until 2 p.m., and on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Please bring registration fee of NIS 180, one photograph, and a photocopy of the following documents: Teudat Oleh, I.D. card, confirmation of completion of ulpan, and matriculation certificate.

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Applications should be submitted to the Ministry of Science on the appropriate form, in 20 copies, by June 16, 1996.

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Dr. Miriam Weldman, Head of Agricultural and Ecological Sciences Tel. 02-847865, e-mail: weldman@most.gov.il  
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